



ABAC Public Relations

ABAC 30, 2802 Moore Highway • Tifton, GA 31793-2601 • (229) 391-5055

August 7, 2006
Volume XLV, Issue 3
www.abac.edu

FOCUS

ABAC Presidential Inauguration On August 25

Erroll B. Davis, Jr., Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will be the featured speaker for the first ever presidential inauguration at ABAC when Dr. David C. Bridges is formally installed as ABAC's 10th president on Aug. 25 at 11:15 a.m. in Gressette Gym.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Davis served as chairman of the board of the Madison, Wis., based Alliant Energy Corporation prior to taking the USG post on Feb. 6. He retired from his dual roles as president and CEO of Alliant in July of 2005 and retained his chairman's post.

Davis earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1965 and a Master's of Business Administration degree in finance from the University of Chicago in 1967. He and his wife, Elaine, established the Davis Family Foundation, which makes annual grants to students in need.

Davis serves on the U.S. Olympic Committee board as chair of the Audit Committee. He has been recognized as one of the "75 Most Powerful Blacks in



Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., will be the featured speaker at the ABAC presidential inauguration on Aug. 25. He chatted with ABAC Ambassadors Pedro Perez and Megan Brannen when he visited the ABAC campus earlier this year.

Corporate America" by Black Enterprise Magazine. He presently serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago.

Bridges took office on July 1. A 1978 ABAC graduate, Bridges is the first ABAC alumnus to serve as president of the college.

A native of Parrott, Bridges received his Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and

Soils from Auburn University; a Master's in Weed Science from Auburn; and a Doctorate in Weed Science from Texas A&M University.

Bridges began his career as a graduate teaching assistant at Texas A&M. He joined the University of Georgia faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences in 1987. He was named the Assistant Dean of the Tifton Campus of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 2001.

Bridges met his wife, Kim, at ABAC, and both his children, Rees and Morgan, attended the college.

The annual ABAC freshman convocation will also be a part of the inauguration ceremony. The Class of 2008 will be honored as ABAC's Centennial Class since the students are on course to graduate during the college's 100th birthday.

A community-wide reception to honor Bridges will be held on Aug. 16 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall. It is open to anyone who would like to attend.

ABAC Is Involved in Statewide Customer Service Plan

The Career Services area at Abraham Baldwin is the first ABAC target for expansion in Governor Sonny Perdue's new statewide Customer Service Improvement Initiative.

Perdue called on all state agencies, including the University System of Georgia, to implement the new initiative with the goal of making Georgia the best-managed state in the country by 2007.

"Each Georgia citizen who walks through our door for a government service is an opportunity," said Perdue. "It is my intention that Georgia government employees will take advantage of these opportunities, showing citizens that we respect and value their time."

Every institution within the USG has a "Customer Service Champion" to oversee these projects. Diane Kilgore, Director of the Public Service and Business Outreach Center, is ABAC's customer service initiative champion.

"We were to come up with a target area on campus as our first duty as champion," Kilgore said. "The first area we chose for ABAC was Career Services."

Each campus customer service champion now has to develop a customer service improvement plan for the campus. Kilgore is also part of a focus group working with champions from other campuses on specific areas targeted for improvement, such as enrollment services,

the bookstore, financial aid, and phone etiquette.

All customer service improvements made by the campuses will be considered a key performance indicator in performance evaluations of USG presidents.

Beginning in the fall, when a second round of projects is launched, campuses will be able to benefit from projects successfully initiated on other campuses during the first round.



Diane Kilgore



ABAC Team Wins Top Prize

The ABAC team of William Moore, Dr. John Galyean, and Anthony Fitzgerald won the top prize at the annual Literacy Volunteers of America Carnival of Knowledge on July 25. Each won a weekend trip to Savannah. Alternates on the team were Dr. Doug Waid and Dr. Erin Campbell. ABAC defeated Moultrie Tech in the final round.

Pay Fees Wednesday

The fee payment deadline for students who have already pre-registered for fall semester at ABAC is 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. If payment is not made by this time, students will lose their classes and have to register again.

Those students participating in the Aug. 17 orientation must pay all fees by Aug. 18 at 4:30 p.m. if they want to attend fall semester at ABAC.



Tea Anyone?

These lovely young ladies enjoyed an afternoon of dress up fun at the ABAC Kids' College's Tea Party. The class was taught by Connie Fritz.



Ag Classic Set for October 9

The 6th Annual ABAC Ag Classic Golf Tournament will take place on Oct. 9 at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Course. The tournament is sponsored by the ABAC Ag Alumni Council.

Entry fees are \$125 per player or \$500 for a team of four. First place teams for each flight will receive \$600 in prize money. Second and third place teams for both flights will receive \$400 and \$200 respectively.

The morning flight will begin at 8 a.m. with registration at 7:30 a.m. The afternoon flight will begin at 1 p.m. with registration at 12:30 p.m.

Each golfer will receive a premium golf shirt and golf towel embroidered with the tournament logo and a sleeve of balls. Prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive as well as a hole-in-one on a designated hole will be awarded.

Golfers in both flights will be treated to lunch prepared by the Ag Division faculty/staff and served by students in the Family and Consumer Sciences program.

A silent auction will offer golf outings at prestigious golf courses around the

state. A variety of other items will also be available for bidding.

In the previous five years of the tournament, over \$87,000 has been generated for student scholarships and instructional resources. All proceeds from the 2006 tournament will be used for scholarships.

"The need for scholarships for our agriculture students is so great that we've decided from this point on 100 percent of the proceeds will be used for scholarships," said Darvin Eason, co-chair of the tournament. "There are many deserving students – and not just straight A students – who could benefit from financial assistance."

Sponsorships are available in five levels: Platinum Level at \$1000; Gold Level at \$750; Silver at \$500; Bronze at \$250; and Century Level at \$100. If Platinum Level sponsors wish to play golf, they may enter four players; three players for Gold sponsors; two for Silver; and one for Bronze.

ABAC's new president, Dr. David Bridges, and the new Ag Division Chair, Dr. Tim Marshall, will be available to meet golfers and sponsors. Scholarship recipients will be on hand to personally thank the golfers who made their scholarships possible.

To register, contact Alumni Director Nancy Coleman at the 391-4898 or email ncoleman@abac.edu.

— August 17 —

Last registration and orientation session for students enrolling at ABAC for the fall term

FOCUS ON

Janet Weaver

Janet Weaver, Senior Client Support for the Office of Information Technology and Services (OITS), will receive her Bachelor's degree in Information Technology in the summer of 2007. She has been a member of the ABAC Family since January, 1989.

Weaver's duties include support, staffing, hardware/software maintenance and installation, network/service maintenance, inventory control for computer labs and classroom use for faculty, staff, and students and scheduling requests from faculty and staff for computer lab utilization.

She has also worked in the Office of Student Affairs as senior secretary, Program Coordinator for the Public Service and Business Outreach Center, and a Computer Service Specialist I for the OITS.

Her hobbies include spending time with family and reading. She is married to Rocky, an appraiser with Ag Georgia Farm Credit.



Barton Gets High Five

President David Bridges congratulates Michelle Barton, Student Enrollment Services Office Manager, who received the weekly High Five Award, as well as the monthly honor for July. Her nomination stated, "Michelle always takes the time to make sure the office is running smoothly. She ensures that each student she deals with is helped, and she always has a positive attitude and a smile. And, AMAZINGLY, she can remember students' names after just meeting them once! She works hard to make ABAC student friendly!"

ABAC Offers Trip to the Fox Theatre

The ABAC Arts Connection is hosting a trip to see Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Sept. 9 at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. This beloved musical for all ages includes memorable songs such as "Be Our Guest", "Beauty and the Beast", and "Something There".



Participants will depart at 9:30 a.m. from ABAC's south lot off Davis Road. After a light lunch, the group will enjoy the show at the Fox from the 1st Dress Circle seats, and then depart to Discover Mills for an early evening of shopping and supper.

Refreshments will be provided on the bus for the relaxing trip back home. Arrival time back in Tifton is expected to be 9 p.m.

Tickets for the trip include bus fare, Fox tickets, and refreshments for \$75 per person. Reservations for the trip can be made by phone, 391-4820, or via e-mail, artsconnection@abac.edu or phuff@abac.edu. The deadline to sign up is Aug. 11 at 2 p.m.

Celebrating Birthdays

August

- 9 Chad Howell
- 9 Marvin McAfee
- 9 Jewrell Rivers
- 10 Geoff Clement
- 10 Sandra Grimsley
- 10 Kay Weeks
- 10 Eugene Wyles
- 11 Jimmy Felton



Note of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Amy Willis whose father-in-law, David Willis, passed away on Aug. 1.

Sympathy is also extended to Herb Hendrix whose father-in-law, Carl Palmer, passed away on July 24.

Please keep both these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Parking This Fall

All current ABAC parking permits for faculty and staff do not expire until August, 2008. Faculty/staff who do not have a current parking permit must get one at the ABAC Police Department in Weltner Hall.

There will be minor changes in the parking assignments for fall semester due to many faculty/staff spaces being unutilized, the Nursing building coming on line and potential record enrollment.

Beginning Aug. 17, only employees working in Tift and Weltner halls will park in the front lot. All other spaces in front of Tift Hall will become student parking. Employees in the Student Center will park in the south lot where several unutilized spaces are marked.

Employees in Bowen, King, Conger and the Library will park in the Dining Hall lot. Science-Math and Nursing faculty and staff will utilize the new parking lot behind the Nursing Building.

ABAC FAMILY

DR. DAVID BRIDGES spoke to the Moultrie Rotary Club on July 25, the Valdosta Rotary Club on July 26, the Communities in Schools banquet in Moultrie on July 27, and the Moultrie Kiwanis Club on Aug. 3.

DIANE KILGORE spoke on ABAC's Public Service and Business Outreach Center at the Tifton Kiwanis Club meeting on Friday.

ANDREA WILLIS attended the SCW Fitness Convention in Atlanta on July 15-16 where she took health-related fitness and nutrition classes. She also received Cheerleader Officials Certification from the Georgia High School Association in Warner Robins on July 22 and will be judging for the Middle Georgia Cheer Association this fall.



Focus Goes Weekly

The FOCUS is back on its regular weekly schedule. If you have items for this prized publication, send them to Pam Leonard (pleonard@abac.edu) by noon on Thursdays for use in the following Monday's issue.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, August 7**
- 7 a.m.—YMCA Day Camp (Nickelodeon)
- Tuesday, August 8**
- 7 a.m.—YMCA Day Camp (Nickelodeon)
- Wednesday, August 9**
- 7 a.m.—YMCA Day Camp (Nickelodeon)
- Thursday, August 10**
- 7 a.m.—YMCA Day Camp (Nickelodeon)
- Friday, August 11**
- 3 p.m.—Police Academy Graduation (Cordell Conf. Room)
- Saturday, August 12**
- 6 p.m.—Run for Love (ABAC Campus)
- Monday, August 14**
- 8 a.m.—Ga. Dept. of Corrections Class (Student Courtroom/Bowen 102)
- 8:30 a.m.—New Faculty Orientation (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- Noon—New Faculty Luncheon (Magnolia Room)